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# THE PHOTOSTAT IN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND RESEARCH WORK—A SYMPOSIUM

BY GEORGE WATSON COLE, L.H.D.

THE photostat has worked a complete revolution in bibliographical and research work by furnishing a comparatively inexpensive means of comparison between different copies of the same book. In many cases, by its means, doubts concerning copies which have long been supposed to be the same or of different issues or editions have been definitely settled. It is true that photography has in the past been used for this purpose; but its greater cost and consequently its infrequent use, as compared with the photostat, cannot be said to nullify the foregoing assertion. At the present time the photostat is in constant use for the purpose of determining likenesses or dissimilarities of copies and the discoveries that are being made will do much to place bibliography among the exact sciences.

Formerly the bibliographer, in order to settle uncertain or disputed points, was obliged either to go from library to library, often widely separated, in order to examine various copies of a work, relying upon his notes as a record of differences; or, if unable to be at that expense, to resort to photography. Now, having learned where a copy or copies of a book are located, he has only to write and, at a small cost, obtain a photostatic copy of such portions of the book as he needs and with this in hand he

is virtually able to compare two widely separated copies side by side.

With a view of ascertaining how extensively this new aid to bibliographical and research work has been made use of by libraries and others in this country, we have sent out some twenty-five or thirty questionnaires. In response to these much interesting information has been elicited. Replies were received from twenty-four libraries; of these ten have a single machine and four two machines each. Most of those who reported not having one regretted their lack and several are planning to instal one when able to do so. All recognize this as a valuable adjunct to their work.

Photostatic reproductions appear to be made of almost every variety of subject, such as books, newspapers, maps, engravings, music, manuscripts, public documents and records, and, in fact, of any material that lends itself to such a reproduction.

Most libraries having photostat machines make reproductions not only for their own readers but often are at pains to send to other libraries for photostats of material they do not themselves possess. In such cases a charge is usually made to cover actual expenses.

So valuable and interesting is the information received in response to our questionnaires that we prefer to let each give the story in its own language.

Mr. William Coolidge Lane, Librarian of Harvard College Library, says:

The reproductions are generally made from books and manuscripts belonging to this Library, but we are quite willing to make reproductions from articles brought in from outside, though we avoid competing with ordinary commercial work. . . . . Each charge is divided on our books into two parts—one to reimburse the operator who comes out here from Boston once or twice a week, sometimes oftener, and the other to cover the cost of supplies which are furnished by the Library. The demand is not continuous enough to make it advisable to employ the full time of an operator, and not having any one on our own staff skilful in this work, we are glad to secure the services of the operator at the Massachusetts Historical Society in his spare hours—evenings, Saturday afternoons, etc.

The chief disadvantage of photostat work seems to be that the price does not greatly diminish with the number of copies printed, so that when ten or twenty copies are wanted, it is usually thought too expensive.

Mr. Bishop, of the University of Michigan, told me some months ago of a machine now being used in England, which makes a negative from which impressions may be taken by an ordinary press. I hope to hear further from him about this machine, and if you are to prepare a report on this subject presently, I hope you will be able to get further information in this line.

Mr. Charles Francis Dorr Belden, Librarian of the Boston Public Library, writes:

A specific instance of the usefulness of the photostat was the reproduction and enlargements of views in England and Holland, from contemporary engravings, which were made for the Pilgrim Exhibition in this Library and of which copies were furnished to several other libraries.

The Hon. Frederic W. Cook, secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, gives an exceedingly interesting

account of the diverse kinds of work done by the two photostat machines in the Archives Division of his office. These were:

Primarily installed to reproduce the Massachusetts Archives, 1625 to 1800, some 200,000 items, and secondly to reproduce papers relating to corporations; but [are] also used to reproduce manuscripts and maps in the Archives Division; manuscripts from the court records and files (civil, criminal, and probate); books and maps in the State Library and, by courtesy, those in the Boston Athenaeum and the New England Historic-Genealogical Society; legal papers of all kinds; maps and plans on the same scale, enlarged, or reduced; discharges, citations, etc., of soldiers in the world war; checks, tampered with or with forged signatures; finger prints and photographs of criminals; special reports, quicker than they can be printed (six typewritten pages can be reproduced in half a minute); income tax returns; card catalogues; wax seals on old manuscripts; and many other purposes, too numerous to mention, for various state departments, libraries and individuals. . . . .

Charges for corporation papers are fixed by law and are the same as if typewritten—50 cents for the first page of 224 words and 40 cents for each succeeding page—in other words the fees are figured on the typewritten basis.

Charges for all other photostatic copies are as follows:

| Size (in Inches) | Negative | Positive |
|---|---|---|
| 11½×11 | $0.20 | $0.10 |
| 11½×16 | .25 | .15 |
| 11½×22 | .30 | .20 |
| 18 ×16 | .55 | .45 |
| 18 ×22 | .60 | .50 |

He reports that the machines are in use constantly. From December 1, 1919, to November 3, 1920, with one machine 28,816 prints were made. The fees received

amounted to $3,448.88. A short time ago in 18 hours, with two machines, 722 prints were made, dried, trimmed, collated, certified (entailing 133 signatures) and delivered. This would have taken six expert typists at least 18 hours each, and then it would have had to be read back.

One important thing to bear in mind is that photostats need no reading back, and the machine makes no mistakes. It requires no dark room, and prints can readily be made by daylight, though much quicker and better results can be obtained by using Cooper-Hewitt mercury vapor lights. There is no limit to the uses it can be put to, and I am finding new ones every little while.

Mr. George Seymour Godard, librarian of the Connecticut State Library, says:

We use the photostat a great deal in connection with our war work and our Department of War Records, which is a part of the Connecticut State Library. Maps and charts have been enlarged or reduced as the occasion required. It has been used in so many various ways that I do not recall all of them at this time. I do not know what we would do without our [two] photostats.

I may state that on various occasions we have photostated title-pages and portions of books which were lacking elsewhere, and have made photostat copies of scarce genealogies, indexes, etc., which were needed in our legislative reference work.

It is our practice to use photostat copies of our bound manuscript indexes covering our archives, probate records, etc., thus preserving the original as much as possible.

Mr. Andrew Keogh, librarian of Yale University, where they have no machine, writes:

It may interest you to know that when I went to take charge of the library of the Inquiry, the first thing I asked for was a photostat, and that we made a great deal of use of it in reproducing maps, documents, and sections of books. At times it was not

possible for the operator, working overtime, to do all that was expected of him in a day.

Mr. Peter Nelson, of the State Department of Education in the University of the State of New York, to whom was referred our questionnaire addressed to James Ingersoll Wyer, Jr., director of the New York State Library, writes as follows:

Charters issued by the Education Department are recorded here in the form of photostat copies; and a great many plans of school buildings have been reproduced for the department for use in advising new construction. Outside the Education Department permission has been granted to the other state departments to have work done here which has taken the form almost entirely of the copying of records in books, and sheets and cards, either for branch offices or for court work, of similar use. . . . .

Our charges are at present 50 cents for a single print; if more than one print is required the charge is 20 cents for all prints except the first. Unusually difficult work, such as large maps, are sometimes charged for on the hour basis but this is seldom. . . . . During the fiscal year July, 1919, to June, 1920, the total number of prints made for the library was rather less than usual, amounting to 820 prints; for the Education Department, exclusive of the state library, 599 prints; for other state departments 2,297 prints; for others (private individuals and corporations), usually work from records and books and papers in the State Library, 3,604 prints, making a total of 7,320 prints.

Mr. Roger Howson, assistant librarian of Columbia University, writes:

So far we have used the photostat mostly for Chinese work although we have photostated a certain number of pages from books and excerpts from scientific magazines for some research

engineers and chemists. . . . . We had a defective copy of the first edition of Milton's *Eikonoklastes* and asked Yale to photostat our missing pages. The result was very satisfactory to us. Another recent use was when a man preparing his doctor's dissertation needed some reproductions from a couple of manuscripts in France. We had this done. The work arrived without delay and the dissertation was considerably aided.

Mr. Harrison Warwick Craver, librarian of the Engineering Societies Library, of New York, gives some idea of the immense amount of work turned out by the machine in his library when he writes:

During the year 1920, 2,669 orders were received for which 35,904 prints were made. The corresponding figures for 1919 were 2,319 and 23,951.

Mr. Wilberforce Eames, whose bibliographical interests have led him into innumerable fields, in reporting on the extensive work of this nature done by himself personally and by the New York Public Library, says:

About the time we moved into the new building, in 1911, I bought a camera for reproducing title-pages and pamphlets at the library. Some great rarities were photographed entire for the New York Public Library in this way, at my own expense, and in no case at the expense of the Library. We photographed, for Mr. [Luther Samuel] Livingston and for the New York Public Library, Franklin's pamphlet on *Liberty and Necessity*, printed by him in London in 1725; and also eight of the "bagatelles" printed at his Passy Press. Many titles of rarities not owned by the library were photographed for our collection in this way.

In December, 1912, the New York Public Library bought a photostat machine, mainly for the convenience of readers desiring reproductions. The first large job done on it was in 1913, for the

Bureau of American Ethnology at Washington, for whom we reproduced three unique books in the Timuquana language of Florida, owned by the New York Historical Society. These books were printed in Mexico in 1612, 1613, and 1635, and totaled about 1,600 pages. A duplicate set was made for the New York Public Library at the same time, and the three volumes have been bound and shelved with our Mexican printing. . . . .

I have utilized the photostat in many other cases for adding to our reserve collection. To mention a few: the second *New York Directory*, 1787, from the only copy known in the New York Public Library; Roger Sherman's pamphlet on bills of credit, entitled *A Caveat Against Injustice*, New York, 1752, from one of two known copies; Peter Hasenclever's book on the iron industry in New Jersey and New York, London, 1773; a series of the earliest Vermont session laws, printed at Dresden, Westminster, Windsor, and Bennington, from 1779 to 1785; a number of the Nez Percé Indian books printed on the Clear Water Mission Press at Lapwai, Oregon Territory (now Idaho), in 1839–45; several books on the Indian sign language; and also books and almanacs printed by William Bradford in New York.

Several libraries have gone still further in reproducing a limited number of sets by subscription, of early American newspapers. The John Carter Brown Library issued in this way a file of the *Newport Mercury*, 1758–76; the Massachusetts Historical Society issued the *Georgia Gazette*, 1763–70, and the *Boston News-Letter*, 1704–45, etc.; the New York Historical Society issued the *New York Gazette*, 1726–44; and the University of Michigan is now issuing the *Kentucky Gazette*, 1787–94, and following years. Besides this, the John Carter Brown Library reproduced all the early broadsides available relating to or printed in Rhode Island; and the Massachusetts Historical Society has done the same for Massachusetts, other libraries being supplied with the prints at a nominal price.

In starting two other undertakings of this kind, I share in the responsibility. First, in the reproduction by photostat of the

Cambridge and Boston *Almanacks* before 1700, sixty-five volumes in all, carried through several years ago by Dr. C. L. Nichols, of Worcester, with the co-operation of the American Antiquarian Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society, ten sets; and second, the series of reproductions of *Early Americana*, now being issued by Mr. Ford, which is to comprise one hundred volumes. I am confident that you and others will join with me in recommending a second series of one hundred volumes when this first series is finished.

Mr. Charles Flowers McCombs, also of the New York Public Library, who is in charge of its main reading-room, says:

It is our aim to provide this service at cost, and charges are adjusted so that the estimated receipts will cover cost of paper and supplies, depreciation of equipment, etc., and salaries of the operating force, and of assistants whose entire time is given to the photostat service. . . . . We have just begun, I think, to appreciate the possibilities of the photostat, or the camerograph, in furthering research.

Mr. Alexander J. Wall, librarian of the New York Historical Society, where much excellent work has been done, writes:

We consider [it] a most necessary part of our equipment today. We are, as you know, just completing the photostat reproduction of Bradford's *New York Gazette*, 1725–44, and I have under consideration the collecting of photostat copies of all early New York newspapers down to the close of the Revolution, 1783, which are not in this library but which may be found in other institutions, thus making complete our collection of New York newspapers as far as known. At present, in co-operation with Mr. Wilberforce Eames, we are securing a number of rare tracts relating to American history which are otherwise unobtainable owing to the high cost at which they sell at auction. In fact I am a very strong believer in libraries

securing these photostat reproductions rather than attempting to purchase, at high cost, these rare publications.

Libraries generally are in such great need of funds, and many improvements, that they can only with difficulty obtain rare publications. These photostat reproductions answer every purpose for the student of American history and we bind them the same as any pamphlet and treat them as an original publication in their classification. The photostat also makes it unnecessary to loan rare material in an interlibrary loan which has come to be the custom of some institutions but which is rather risky in the matter of mailing.

It will interest you to know that this library printed a Revolutionary orderly book a few years ago, the type of which was set up entirely from photostat negatives, avoiding the possibility of errors and placing the expense of corrections entirely upon the printer. It, of course, was rather an exceptional case since the orderly book was written very plainly.

Mr. Willard Austen, librarian of Cornell University, where they have no photostat, remarks:

We do send to other libraries for photostat or rotograph copies, as they are called in England, chiefly to the British Museum and the Oxford University. We are now negotiating for some work that calls for an appropriation of $1,000, and we expect to follow this up for several years on a similar scale.

For practical use for scholarly purposes the photostat copy seems to give all that is desired. It does not of course satisfy the collector's desire, which only the original can do, but as original copies are limited and transportation is risky at best, research is greatly helped by the copies and the possessor of the original is none the poorer by sharing the substance with the world.

Mr. James Thayer Gerould, librarian of Princeton University, writes:

During the last financial year the photostat department used 14,000 sheets. . . . . My belief is that the photostat is going to be an increasingly useful adjunct to the Library. We are at present contemplating the reproduction of a large amount of material existing in the Genoese archives relating to the Crusades.

At the University of Minnesota for our collection in seventeenth century English history we secured reproductions of all of the existing manuscripts of the Parliamentary Diaries of the time. In many cases the photograph is more satisfactory for the scholar's use than the original, and the material can be brought to him at a fraction of the cost required for him to go to the manuscript.

Dr. Herbert Putnam, librarian of the Library of Congress, reports that:

The photostatic service has proved to be of great use in supplying information to Congress and in furnishing institutions of learning and individuals engaged in research with exact reproductions of MSS, maps, rare books and pamphlets (early reprints), extracts from newspapers, etc.

Mr. John Clement Fitzpatrick, assistant chief of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, writes:

It is probably known to you that photostat copies of documents are accepted as evidence in court where photographs are not, the reason being that nothing intervenes between the original and the photostat print, which is not the case with a photograph, which has the developed plate between the original and the finished reproduction.

For card reproduction work the photostat is cheap and rapid. Two dozen or more cards can be reproduced at once. With care in cutting, these card reproductions will serve for ordinary purposes. As printer's copy, for publishing original and valuable manuscripts, photostating is inexpensive and practicable, when the

writing is legible; and where long excerpts from printed sources are used, it is much cheaper [and more exact] than copy preparation in any other form.

Mr. William Warner Bishop, librarian of the University of Michigan, says:

We have been engaged in reproducing the entire file of the *Detroit Gazette* and the first fourteen years of the *Kentucky Gazette*, being the first newspaper in the state of Michigan and the first newspaper west of the Alleghany Mountains, respectively. The work on these has proved decidedly laborious and slow, and we have tried to push it rather than develop the general use of the photostat in the University. . . . .

We find that the chief call at the present is for reproductions of articles containing charts, statistical tables, and maps, which cannot easily be copied on the typewriter. . . . . We are now having photo[stated] in London the entire text of five English grammars published before 1610, for one of our professors, and we are arranging [for] others at Oxford. The English process is called "rotograph," and my observation is that the paper generally used is of a somewhat better texture than that used in America. How the work will stand the test of time, I do not know. . . . . Our expectation is that the use of the photostat will increase very greatly, and I have no doubt that we shall consider it a regular part of our routine in the future.

Our experience in the reproduction of a fairly large number of copies of newspaper files has given us some line on quantity production. The photostat is a very poor publishing instrument: It is an admirable copying device. There is very little economy in making fifteen copies of a page as over against the cost of making one copy of that page. The cost is slightly reduced, but nothing in proportion to the ordinary expense of printing from contact plates. I can, therefore, see but little future for the photostat as an instrument for producing many copies of a given article. In

fact, I do not think we shall undertake to make copies of any more newspapers.

This does not mean that the photostat is not extremely useful in copying very rare books, and particularly in reproducing maps, charts, graphs of all sorts (including the "curves" which are so dear to the modern so-called scientific investigator), statistical tables, etc. I think there is no limit to the development of the photostat in this direction. It is amazingly useful also in reproducing lists and schedules of all kinds for library use. The fact that one can easily enlarge or reduce is an added advantage.

The advantages of the photostat over the ordinary photograph are: (1) the absolutely steady and sufficient light properly placed; (2) accuracy of focus to scale, without the exercise of much judgment on the part of the operator; (3) convenience, in that objects to be [reproduced] are kept flat and are under glass, insuring the absence of shadow and ease of manipulation, and also removing the element of danger in the case of frail material to be [reproduced].

I think it should be said that we have found it very desirable to do the developing and washing of our photostat prints in a dark room. For quick work, producing prints intended to be used in an office and cast aside, development in the machine is all right; but for work which is intended to be reasonably permanent, development in the machine, with the ordinary hasty washing, is insufficient. We wash our prints for the *Kentucky Gazette*, for example, through twelve waters, and we time the development with great accuracy with reference to the tone of the background, i.e., the ordinary white paper which has been discolored by age. We also use a ray filter in making the exposure when the paper is very brown.

Miss Annie A. Nunns, assistant superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, informs us that the Society has

made only a moderate use of the method owing to the fact that our money is limited. We have had missing numbers of newspapers

photostated in order to complete a file, manuscript documents reproduced, and some maps made. We consider the machine a very valuable adjunct to our library, and our correspondents have made much use of it. We have very recently photostated for some big corporations and firms drawings from the Patent Office Reports both of the United States and Great Britain.

Regarding the admissibility of the photostat as evidence in courts of justice we are also informed by John S. Greene, of the Photostat Corporation, Rochester, New York, that:

The photostat print is usually accepted as evidence whereas a photograph is not, for the simple reason that the photostat print cannot be changed while it is an easy matter to rearrange a photograph.

We have also been favored with views upon this subject by one or two others who have made a practical use of photostats in their work.

Miss Henrietta C. Bartlett, compiler of the well-known *Census of Shakespeare's Plays in Quarto*, writes:

As regards the use of the photostat in bibliographical work, I am interested indeed. It has a very large place and is of great value in determining texts and variant readings. The only serious "out" is that one cannot tell anything about the paper and therefore cannot tell whether the leaf is genuine or spurious, whether it originally belonged there or was from another copy or edition, whether some leaves have been canceled or not. Always bearing these facts in mind, it can be used with great profit. I am constantly having titles and other leaves photostated in England for purposes of comparison and last month I had ten or twelve leaves from the Boston copy of *Every Man Out of His Humor*, photostated for Dr. Greg, of London, because the British Museum copy lacks two leaves and has others in bad shape and he wanted these for a reproduction. The photostat is better, I believe, than any other

method of reproduction, but it should not be considered of equal value to the student with the original.

Dr. Edward Luther Stevenson, an authority on globes and early maps of America, says:

The photostat is a convenient shorthand means of getting certain results—it is the printed page with the artistic sentiment left out. I am here reminded of the statement attributed to the Duke of Ferrara that he did not want a printed book in his library because it was cheap. As for the majority of us it is the cheap thing we must take, and that which approaches nearest the original page is a photostat.

I am, however, surprised that the process is as expensive as it is. True, most of that which I have had done is on the glossy paper, and this I find has been costing me a trifle more than an ordinary photograph of the same subject. I may have been fortunate in the photographer, or unfortunate in the photostater.

Here is an interesting point I have been able to observe in the matter of illustrations for my Globe Book, that some of the best pictures are those made from photostatic reproductions—in other words for certain half-tone reproductions the photostat is better than the photograph.

Little need be added to the foregoing interesting extracts. It will be observed that photostat reproductions are practically a necessity in all that class of material that does not lend itself readily to being transcribed or typewritten, namely: maps, engravings, music, finger-prints, diagrams, plans, manuscripts, drawings (architectural or otherwise), wax seals, Chinese books or others employing many arbitrary signs or printed in unusual alphabets.

Even for matter that may be readily transcribed or typewritten, especially if it is to be used as printer's copy,

the photostat is superior to either for exactness and economy, as it requires no reading back, thus eliminating errors as well as saving time and expense.

Another advantage takes place where catalogues are to be printed, as photostats of the cards can be sent to the printer, thus saving time and expense in transcription and all possibility of loss in transportation. Special stress also should be laid upon the rapidity in which photostats can be made in case speed is required.

The example of Cornell University in making an appropriation to be utilized in securing photostat reproductions of rare works for its library will, we confidently predict, ere long be followed by many others.

The bibliographical catalogue of Elizabethan literature projected by the Henry E. Huntington Library and now well under way, is as distinctive in the field of bibliography as is Murray's *New English Dictionary* in that of lexicography. The work being done upon it would have been impossible ten years ago, before the invention of the photostat. Some idea of its scope and the minute details that enter into its construction and the important part taken by the photostat will be found set forth in Mr. Cate's paper which follows. Dr. Bendikson's paper touches upon another phase in which the Huntington Library has made use of this invention.

In closing we cannot but reiterate what has already been said by one of our correspondents that we have but just begun to appreciate the possibilities of the photostat, or the cameragraph, in furthering research.

# THE PHOTOSTAT AND THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

BY CHESTER MARCH CATE

THE use of photostatic reproductions by the Huntington Library as an aid in bibliographical research began almost simultaneously with the work of preparing an accurate bibliographical catalogue of its collection of English literature prior to the year 1641. In cataloguing a book of this class it was considered within its province to determine not only the exact edition and issue of the work in hand, but also to describe more briefly all the editions and issues of that work up to and including the year 1709.

As was to be expected, instances immediately occurred in which the Huntington Library did not have on its shelves all these editions and issues of a given book. In some cases the missing volumes were near at hand in the collections of the New York Public Library, Columbia University, or the Union Theological Seminary, and, through the kindness of those in charge of these institutions, it was oftentimes possible to make a physical examination of the books in question. Frequently, however, books which it was desirable to examine in this connection were not so easily available; and in many instances the only copies which could be located were to be found on the shelves of the Bodleian or in the British Museum. Under these circumstances the Library lost no time in estab-

lishing agents in London, Oxford, and Cambridge, trained bibliographers, on whose skill and care in professional matters absolute reliance could be placed.

As work of this nature increased in volume it soon came to involve correspondence with most of the libraries in this country and in Europe in whose collections works of early English literature are to be found. Needless to say it was out of the question for the Library to have a trained representative in each of these libraries; nor could the good will of their librarians and assistants be imposed upon to the extent required to answer our queries. It will be easily seen that practically the only ready solution of this difficulty lay in the use of the photostat; and how very satisfactory a help this invention has been in solving our problems can be appreciated only by those who have pondered over second-hand descriptions of books and wondered to just what extent they were accurate.

A few instances in which the photostat has been of service in our work are here given.

The Huntington copy of Richard Alison's *Plaine Confutation of Brownisme*, 1590, lacked the title-page and the last two leaves. Photostats of these leaves and of one or two others from the copy at Yale enabled us to identify ours as a duplicate of that copy and to provide our readers with a complete text.

In a recent instance we found in the catalogue of a private library an imprint given which we wished to quote, but the entry was so made as to suggest at once

the strong possibility of error. We had recently ventured to call the attention of the librarian of this library to a mistake in his catalogue and had received so spirited a reply that we hesitated to write a second letter of a similar nature. He, however, readily acceded to our request for a photostat; and by that means we were able both to confirm our suspicions of his error and at the same time to preserve cordial relations between the two institutions.

Various editions of John Bate's *Mysteries of Nature and Art* occur with both a letter-press and an engraved title-page on which the imprints differ. In examining the entries of these editions in the catalogues we were led to suspect that in several cases what seemed to be two different editions were in reality but one and the same, save that in some catalogues the imprint given had been taken from the letter-press and in others from the engraved title-page. By securing photostats of these title-pages from all doubtful copies we were soon in a position to settle the matter definitely.

Of Paul Baynes's *Diocesans Tryall*, there are two editions both dated 1621 on the title-page, but readily distinguished by their titles, one of which is considerably longer than the other. As the entries for this book in most catalogues stopped with the word "Tryall," it was impossible to say which edition was meant. By obtaining photostats of the title-page and following leaf from six copies we were able not only to state that one of these editions was really not an edition at all, but merely a reissue of the same sheets with a new title-page; but

also to say confidently which of these issues was in the Massachusetts Historical Society, Union Theological Seminary, University of Minnesota, Congregational Library, Harvard College Library, and the Bodleian.

The imprint in our copy of John Donne's *Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*, 1624, reads: "London: Printed by A. M. for Thomas Iones." The imprint in the copy in the University Library, Cambridge, was stated in Sayle's Catalogue to read: "London: Printed by A. M. for T. Iones." It seemed natural to infer that the two copies were the same and that the name Thomas in the imprint had been abbreviated to T. in Sayle's Catalogue for the sake of economy in space. A photostat reproduction of the title-page of the Cambridge copy showed that such was really the case and saved us from the possible error of describing a variation which had no existence.

One of the great uses of the photostat in our work has been in enabling us to describe the works of authors which were reprinted from time to time in collected form. In many instances catalogue entries for such books described them merely as "collected works" and failed to give any indication as to the number or nature of the works so collected. By securing photostats of secondary title-pages or of the leaf of contents from such volumes we have been able to give a correct bibliographical history of a given production throughout its separate issues and its various appearances in the author's collected works.

In works of this period it frequently happened that the person to whom a book was dedicated died or was removed

from an influential position shortly after the book was printed. In such cases the author often found it advisable to dedicate his work to someone else. If the work proved sufficiently popular to warrent a second edition this was a simple matter; if it did not, the usual process was to cancel the leaves containing the original dedication, print another, and insert it in the vacant space. The alteration thus made occasioned no difference in the title-page nor in the text proper, nor did it constitute a variation likely to be noticed by the ordinary cataloguer. In all cases of this sort which have come to our attention we have always tried to secure by means of photostatic reproductions the variant dedication, and with this information at hand to determine the dedication in copies in other libraries.

Similar instances might be enumerated by the score. Considered collectively they go far to show that the photostat has become a help as indispensable to the modern bibliographer as electricity to the manufacturer or the automobile to the commuter.

# THE USE OF THE CAMERAGRAPH IN THE JOHN CRERAR LIBRARY

BY EDWARD D. TWEEDELL

THE John Crerar Library has had a Duplex Cameragraph Machine in operation for nine years. The machine copying two pages on one sheet is particularly useful for library purposes. Our work is mainly reproducing articles, first because we cannot loan the book or secondly because it would be cheaper to have a copy of the article cameragraphed than to send and return by express. The material is usually for the research worker or for patent cases, for which certified copies are furnished.

During the war the machine was much used for reproducing material on the manufacture of dyes. Much work was done for the government. One complete book was reproduced and another one would have been undertaken had not the signing of the Armistice made it unnecessary.

The machine has also been used to reproduce pages torn from books which could not be obtained in any other way. The size of our sheet is $9 \times 13$ inches. Some but not much work has been done in reproducing maps and large plans.

The tabular record of use shows the steady growth of calls made upon it:

| Years | Orders | Sheets |
|---|---|---|
| 1912 (8 months) | 71 | 802 |
| 1913 | 86 | 1,226 |
| 1914 | 110 | 1,471 |
| 1915 | 142 | 1,725 |
| 1916 | 225 | 2,885 |
| 1917 | 251 | 3,431 |
| 1918 | 261 | 4,008 |
| 1919 | 416 | 6,216 |
| 1920 | 226 | 2,246 |

During the last year, the cameragraph was in storage for six months.

The Library charges for the white on black 25 cents for a first exposure and 15 cents for each succeeding sheet on any order. The first copy of a positive costs twice as much. These charges are intended to cover the cost of materials, expense of operating the machine, wrapping, and postage, but not depreciation or services of the staff in getting material together.

# PHOTOGRAPHIC COPYING AND REPRODUCING

BY DR. LODEWYK BENDIKSON

ALTHOUGH the Huntington Library had made extensive use of the photostat for dispersing and obtaining bibliographical information from the very moment this institution started work for its descriptive catalogue, its first greater adventure in the field of photomechanic reproduction was the exchange of fifty photostat facsimiles of rare or unique quartos with Mr. William Augustus White, of Brooklyn. Each of the two collectors agreed to allow reproduction by photostat of twenty-five of the "crown jewels" of their collections, making their selection of desiderata from each other's supplemented checklists of books. Two copies were to be printed of each work reproduced: one to remain in possession of the owner of the original and the other to go on the shelves of the library of the second party to the agreement.

At a total expense of about 21 cents for each page reproduced, both libraries are richer by twenty-five photostat facsimiles of the very rarest editions of Elizabethan literature, of which the majority up to the time of the agreement never were reproduced in photomechanic facsimile. It is superfluous to enumerate the advantages both libraries enjoy from this exchange; it enables them to compare editions or study and describe works of Eliza-

bethan authors that were otherwise unaccessible, and in some cases would remain so.

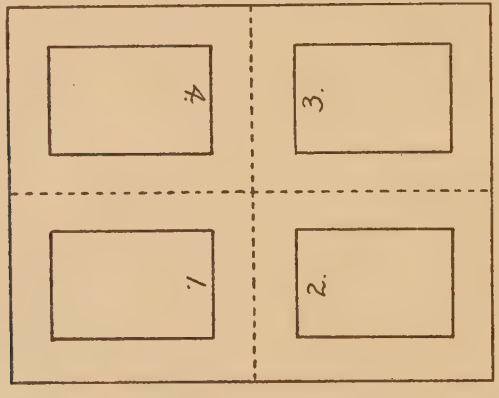
A glance at the titles of the White-Huntington series of fascimiles is sufficient to convince every bibliophile.

Among the works reproduced after copies in the Huntington Library were four Shakespeares: the 1603 *Hamlet*, the two apocrypha: *Mucedorus* (1598) and *The Yorkshire Tragedy* (1608) and one source play: *The Famous Victories of Henry the Fifth* (1598). There were two of Greene's works: *Perimedes the Blacke-Smith* (1588) and *James the Fourth* (1598); two of Breton: *The Bowre of Delights* (1597) and *The Arbor of Amorous Devises* (1597); two of Wilson: *The Three Ladies of London* (1584) and his *Three Lords and Three Ladies of London* (1590); Edwards' *Paradise of Dainty Devises* (1576); Peele's *Old Wives' Tale* (1595); Whetstone's *Promos and Cassandra* (1578); Sir Philip Sidney's *Astrophel and Stella* (1591); Warner's translation of the *Menaecmi* by Plautus (1595); Norton and Sackville's Tragedy of *Gorboduc* (1565) and Marlowe's *Tamburlane* (1590).

Among those reproduced after the originals in the library of Mr. White, we enumerate: Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis* (a late edition of 1675) and a source poem *Romeus and Juliet* (1567); three of Greene's works: *Pandosto* (1592), *A Quip for an upstart Courtier* (1592) one of the three issues of that year, of which the Huntington Library has two, and his *Groats Worth of Witte* (1592); three of Breton: *The Passionate Shepheard* (1604), *The Good and the Badde* (1616), and his *Workes of a*

*Young Wit* (1577); two of Bodenham: *England's Helicon* (1600) and *Belevedere* (1600); Wager's *Enterlude of the Life of Mary Magdalene* (1566); Rowland's *Knave of the Clubbes* (1609); Whither's *Epithalamia* (1612); *The Phoenix Nest* (1593); an *Agnus Dei* of 1601; and at last not least: The Earl of Surrey's *Songes and Sonnettes* (1557), popularly known as the first edition of Tottel's *Miscellany*.

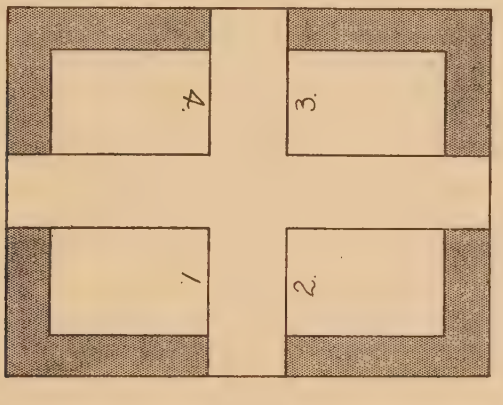
The books were taken in small groups to a studio, where the negatives or white-on-black prints were made. The latter were inspected, trimmed, collated with the originals and numbered consecutively on the back with an enumerating stamp. Special attention was paid that the density of the black portions was, as much as possible, the same for all negatives belonging together. Having




obtained a set of numbered negatives of approximately equal density, the negatives were pasted on dead black paper sheets, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ inches. If the negatives were comparatively small, as in the case of the *Venus and Adonis*,

four were loosely pasted on one sheet, arranged in the same manner as in a printer's form of a quarto.

In order to get on all sheets the same inter-spaces and margins, a gauge in the form of a cross was cut out of no. 20 Davey board, likewise $11\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ inches. The width of the bars of the cross should be equal to the distances between the four negatives.

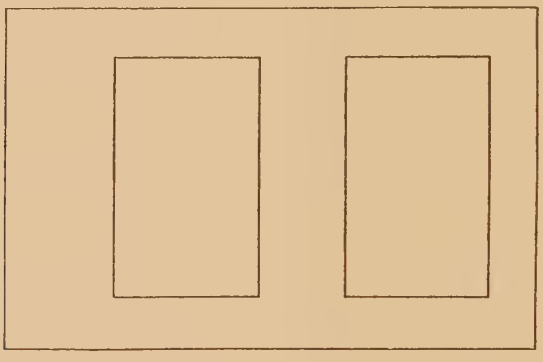



Just a touch with the paste-brush was sufficient to keep the negatives in place. These sheets of black paper with the negatives affixed in the described manner were returned to the studio, where they were placed in the copy-holder of the camera and positives or black-on-white prints were made.

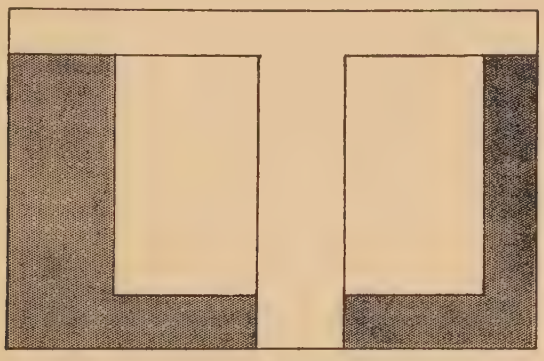
These were afterwards folded as a regular quarto sheet coming from a printer's press and bound together in book form. The advantage of this method is that the binding becomes an easy matter and that the reader of these

facsimiles, by not cutting the top of the bound book, is not troubled by the blank pages that alternate with the printed ones, but now are less obvious as the inner pages of an unopened quarto.

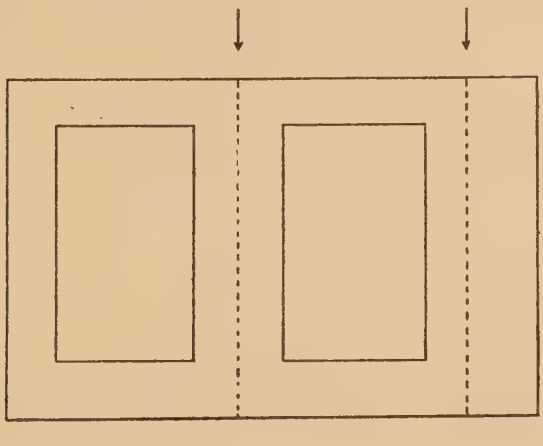
If, however, the size of the pages was too large to allow sufficient space for four negatives to be printed together, another system was followed in imitation of books put together in Japanese fashion. Now, only two negatives were pasted on each sheet of black paper, recto and verso of the same leaf together, with a wider margin either at the right- or at the left-hand side, as in the accompanying diagram.



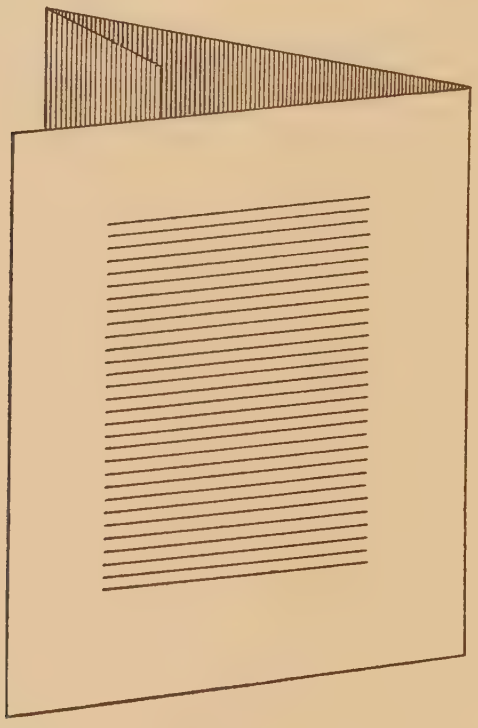
Instead of a cross cut out of Davey board as for the method first described, a T-shaped gauge ($11\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ inches) was used to adjust the negatives on the black paper: the vertical part twice as broad as we intend to make the inner margins of the finished facsimile; the assymmetrical horizontal part as broad as the upper margins of the same.



With the assistance of this T-shaped gauge the negatives were affixed to the black sheet and positive prints were then made. After these were dried, they were cut and folded. They were folded first along a line exactly in the middle between the two pages printed together; this divided the sheet into two unequal parts; then the larger of these two parts was folded again along a line, that marked the difference in size between the two parts.



In this manner we get at the right-hand side an extra margin about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, that was folded inward and pasted to the outer edge of the other half. Sheets folded and pasted in this fashion can be easily bound together and have the advantage that the blank reverse side of the photostat-print is absolutely hidden as in Japanese books.



A third and rather simple device is to paste each recto to its pertaining verso. The best way is to print

pages 1 and 4 on one sheet to be folded in the center, and to paste, properly centered, the separated pages 2 and 3 respectively on the verso side of page 1 and the recto side of page 4. In this manner we obtain an exact replica of two companion leaves and the binding of the facsimile is an easy matter. It is essential to press the leaves well before binding.

After reproducing over eighty works, in different numbers ranging from one to twenty copies, I can recommend the reproduction of rare books by photostat in all cases where a rather limited number of copies is to be made and in all cases where the time of delivery is an important factor. A library equipped with a photostat camera can easily turn out within the time limit of a working-day a facsimile (positive print) of any of its rare quartos—a feature that cannot be performed in any other manner. As to the cheapness of the method up to the present time there is no other device that can be successfully compared with the photostat, taking exception for reproduction in larger numbers.

The negatives of a fairly preserved good-sized book, let us take for instance the Bridgewater copy of Marston's *Metamorphosis of Pygmalion* (1598), recently reproduced at the request of Cornell University, requiring forty-five exposures for its ninety pages can be made in a couple of hours of skilled labor. Cost of paper and chemicals, $1.80. Trimming and pasting on black paper of negatives also two hours of unskilled labor. Printing of positives requiring for each copy 23 exposures: one hour of skilled

labor and $1.80 to paper and chemicals. Trimming, folding, and binding in cloth of the finished prints: $1.25. Total $4.89, plus the cost of 3 hours skilled and 2 hours unskilled labor.

Assuming that for certain reasons 10 copies would have been required, the figures for the negatives remain the same: ($1.80 and 2 hours skilled and 2 hours unskilled labor); the printing of the positives will require 230 exposures, cost of material $18.00. The most important saving, however, is brought to light as soon as we calculate the cost of labor to reproduce ten copies. With the object once on the copy-board, all the operator has to do is to repeat ten times the motion of exposing, of cutting the roll of paper and of dropping the print in the box. With an unskilled assistant, with a time-clock, at the shutter, the ten prints can be exposed in 150 seconds or $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. They can be developed together in 5 minutes. This has to be repeated 23 times, and the entire work including the changing of the object on the copy-board can be finished in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. To the $18.00 for materials used, we have to add the cost of $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours skilled and $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours unskilled labor, making a total for the 10 copies (including negatives) of $19.80 and the price of $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours skilled and $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours unskilled labor. The price per copy is now $1.98 plus the cost of 27 minutes skilled and 27 minutes unskilled labor. Assuming the wages of the former to be $1.00 per hour and for the latter $0.50, we come to a total of $2.66 for each unbound copy. When we compare this with a cost of $7.67, the cost of

material and labor for one single unbound copy, we must admit that by its simplicity of manipulation the photostat has a great advantage over all photomechanic methods in cost of production and in possibilities of quick deliveries; and this is true whether one or ten copies are to be reproduced.

General statements as to the cost of photostat work for bibliographical purposes, however, become more complicated when the originals are in a poor condition. In such cases the cost accounts differ in almost every instance.

A poorly printed, foxed, and stained copy, in which the printer's ink has faded in spots and where the printing on the reverse side of the pages is almost equally as visible through the paper as the printing on the obverse side, requires a great deal of experimenting until the best possible results are obtained. Brown or yellow spots will always appear exaggerated in the print and the faded lines become easily illegible. Anyone who has tried to produce one of Leeds's early New York Almanacks will readily agree to this, and in order to produce a facsimile of this early but poor specimen of American printing, a number of negatives and positives will land in the waste-basket. In some instances it is not even possible to reproduce the two pages, of which each opening of a book consists, in one exposure, because it occurs not infrequently that an almost perfect page faces one that suffers from all the infirmities of old age, and each of the two will require its own length of exposure and treatment in the developing bath.

The dimensions of the book also influence the cost of production. Working with a photostat of which the prints measure 14×18 inches, almost every early quarto and of course every octavo can be reproduced on half-sheets, a saving of 50 per cent of the cost of paper and chemicals.

So far we have taken into consideration only prints or negatives made on so-called bromide paper, with granulated surface. There is also a paper with glossy surface, the so-called gelatine paper. This paper is especially adapted for illustrations and manuscripts and in all cases where the finer details would be lost on the coarser surface of bromide paper. Besides requiring a longer exposure-time and more careful manipulation, the price of gelatine paper is about 30 per cent higher than that of the bromide. In many instances, however, it is sufficient to make only the negative on gelatine paper, whereas the positives can be printed on bromide.

# THE PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTION OF RARE BOOKS

BY FREDERIC IVES CARPENTER

## I. INTRODUCTORY

PHOTOGRAPHIC processes have been used in the reproduction of books and manuscripts for many years. But only in very recent years a conjunction has arisen which gives this subject an especial and a very present interest.

Through the rapid absorption of such rare books as come on the market by the many new large endowments as well as by the older public collections and by the very wealthy private collectors the supply of rare books formerly available for purchase by libraries has been either greatly reduced or entirely absorbed. The prices of those that remain have risen to such dizzy heights as to make their purchase impossible except to the very wealthy collectors.

At the same time of course the demands of scholars and readers have led to a greatly increased reprinting of rare books. But there remains a residuum, occasionally interesting or important to the historical or literary investigator, which are not of such general interest as to justify reprinting. At the very time that this situation has become most acute improvements in photographic processes have been effected which have made it possible to secure

single photographic reproductions of rare books at a reasonable price—in most cases at a price much less than the cost of a copy of the original.

Concerted efforts for organized co-operation in the selection, procuring, and distribution of such reproductions by public and university libraries are now being made. The aim of this paper is to give some account of recent progress in the matter. A committee to deal with the subject, of which President Aydelotte, of Swarthmore College, is chairman, has been appointed by the Modern Language Association of America. In June of the year 1921 the Newberry Library of Chicago sent to certain libraries and individuals a circular letter and list of "Proposed Photographic Reproductions of Rare Books and Manuscripts." On the correspondence evoked thereby this paper is largely based.

The word "rotograph" and the word "photostat" are the two most commonly used in connection with the new processes. They mean practically the same thing. The former is probably the more generic; the latter applies to a particular machine. Of the word "collotype," a few remarks further on.

## II. PROCESSES AND COSTS

A few explanations as to the modern processes of photographic reproduction may be worth while. The process which is most in vogue is about twelve years old. This consists of the rapid photographing under artificial light leaf by leaf of the material to be reproduced. The result

is a direct photograph, white on black, on a specially prepared paper, which is fixed in the proper chemical bath, and delivered without further process. It is commonly called a "negative" because it is a direct photograph and because it appears as white on black. The use of this term, however, is confusing, as photographic light prints cannot be made from it as from an ordinary photographic negative. It can merely be photographed again, when the result appears as black on white. Such copies made in connection with the first prints can be procured, however, at a reduction in cost of approximately 20 per cent.

Photostatic machines have been installed in the Library of Congress, the Huntington Library, the New York Public Library, and in some other libraries. The cost of the larger outfit in December, 1921, was about $650. The mercury lights, which have to be renewed every two months, cost in addition $15. Labor figures as about 40 per cent of this cost. The main cost of material is that of the paper. It is likely that a paper thinner and cheaper but equally good will in time be on the market.

Present prices, quoted by a leading concern in Chicago, per page for first print (so-called "negative") in sizes 11×14 inches, permitting the reproduction of two ordinary octavo printed pages on one photographic page, are 35 cents each, or in quantity (that is, for books of one hundred pages or more), about 25 cents per page. In London the Newberry Library recently has had to pay more than this, or from 1*s*. 6*d*. to 2*s*. per page in quantity.

Mr. C. W. Andrews, of the John Crerar Library, has recently given an account of a new process called the "Manul Process" (the Polygraphic Company of Laupen-Berne, Switzerland, and London, England), under which the costs are said to be very materially reduced. According to Mr. Andrews this process is like the collotype process in principle, that is, it is a manner of printing, and reduces costs only when numerous copies are to be printed.

There are also other processes which are not strictly photographic reproductions. Such are the "collotype" process, printing in printers' ink on non-sensitized paper, from photographs on gelatine plates or negatives. The "Planigraph Process," "printing from photography on a zinc or albumen plate," is mentioned in a letter from Mr. H. H. B. Meyer, of the Library of Congress, but about this I know nothing else. Mr. Meyer reports that the Library of Congress would "not be so enthusiastic" about the plans for photographic reproductions of rare books "if the reproduction is to be a purely photographic one," "because from our experience reproductions on photographic paper do not have much life in them, nor do they stand much handling." The experience of the Library of Congress certainly must have much weight. But others in the trade and in libraries do not report the same experience. The British Museum, the New York Public, and other libraries are procuring a number of photographic reproductions of rare books in other libraries, the originals of which they cannot procure. The Newberry Library has had since 1916 a photostatic copy of

Hunter's *Chorus Vatum* and it as yet does not show deterioration. Most of these reproductions, it must be remembered, are infrequently used or exposed to the light and are not subject to much handling.

These photographic processes are not supposed to injure the originals to be reproduced. Mr. A. W. Pollard, however, writes: "The British Museum will offer no objection to any books it possesses being rotographed, if this can be done, as it almost always can, without injury." Mr. Pollard doubtless has in mind *physical*, not *chemical* injury.

### III. THE QUESTION OF CO-OPERATION AND A CENTRAL BUREAU

There are several aspects of the general topic under discussion which I wish to take up in order. First is that of co-operation among the libraries in the matter of photographic reproductions, and in connection therewith that of a Central Depository and Bureau.

There is no reason why any library should not acquire reproductions of such items as it desires save that of economy and cost. If several libraries desire photographs of the same book there is some saving in having them made at the same time. And "positives" (black on white), especially of manuscripts, are usually easier to read than white on black.

Certain books in the list sent out by the Newberry Library should be reprinted. Examples of such, in my opinion, are Bryskett's *Discourse of Civil Life* and Mul-

caster's *First Part of the Elementarie.* The latter is in the Huntington Library. The former is in the Huntington, the New York Public, and the Harvard libraries. I do not think that it is in any library of the Middle West. The Newberry has recently acquired a photostatic copy. If there were co-operation organized among the libraries in the matter of photographic reproductions possibly a half-dozen other libraries could have taken advantage of the occasion to procure copies for themselves.

But the attention of the committee of the Modern Language Association and of others interested is not on such books, but on those which will probably never be reprinted. The plan of this committee is briefly outlined in a letter of President Aydelotte of October 20, 1921:

> I am very keen about this matter of photographic reproductions of rare books and manuscripts. The plan of our Modern Language Committee is to get rotographs, at first only a single one of each book or manuscript, depositing this in the Congressional Library at Washington to be sent by mail to institutions or individuals in different parts of the country desiring to make use of them. I feel that this would be the most immediate way of making such funds as we are able to collect go as far as possible.
>
> Our plan was to ask each college or university library, that was willing, to subscribe $25 a year toward the collection, giving it certain rights in the use of the material and in designating what should be reproduced. Our plan is, however, after the needs of the subscribing individuals are cared for, to make the material as widely useful as possible.

Mr. George P. Winship, of the Harvard Library, amplifies the subject in a suggestive letter of July 5, 1921:

The more I see of the current vogue of the photostat, the more certain I have come to be that it is of the greatest importance to have negatives made from every book and manuscript which is of any possible use to any student, present or prospective, in America. I am equally certain that it is a waste of money to make duplicate prints for distribution among different libraries. The photostat, after all, is merely a method of copying and once the possibility of getting a copy is assured, there is no point in having the copy made, until it is wanted.

The practical question is how are we to know that a negative has been made, where it is, and that prints can be had when wanted. Here at Harvard it would of course be very nice to have prints on the shelves ready for use of everything that has been or may be copied by the photostat or by any other means. As it is absolutely impossible for us to guess remotely what books or manuscripts will be asked for by the students who are coming here next October for research work, it seems to me foolish to go to the expense of buying and caring for any special group of copies of negatives which may or may not be wanted for a dozen years. It is a very much better use of the money for us to get other negatives which are not being made for other libraries and thus increase by just so much the total of available material.

There are two possible ways by which this whole problem of photostating for libraries can be handled satisfactorily. Probably the better way would be a grand central storehouse, centrally located and big enough to keep all the negatives that have been or are to be made, with facilities for making prints promptly whenever a student anywhere wants them for use. Until some adequate endowment makes this possible, the more practical thing is for the larger libraries to agree upon the special lines which each will develop and for each to hold itself ready to supply students elsewhere with what they want in its special field. For instance, Harvard this spring has bought about half the fifteenth-century Savonarola tracts and a sizable lot of the Florentine Rappresenta-

zioni. If we are right in thinking that this gives us a controlling position for these two specific subjects, it seems to me that it is our duty to secure negatives of all the tracts of which we have not the originals and after we have these, of anything else necessary for the comprehensive study of the fields which these two groups open up. It ought not to be necessary for any other American library to attempt to have more than a specimen (such as we all would like, of course) showing what these books are like. There ought not to be any other place where the student who needs to use these will think of going.

At the same time, the student who wants to use these extensively is just as likely to turn up in Texas as in Chicago or Cambridge. He is not likely to turn up oftener than once a year at the most and as there is no way by which anyone can guess where he will be, what is the use of any two or twenty libraries each loading its shelves with a set of the prints from our negatives?

It is heartily to be hoped that these plans will have abundant support and success. There are a few strictures, however, which I shall venture. I have already hinted that there are certain books of enough value to deserve reprinting, and that until they are reprinted photographic copies might well be on the shelves of more than one library, especially if regard is had to geographical distribution. Here, however, collotype reproduction, if it could be secured, would be a much better solution. But that of course is a manner of printing.

As to a central repository, that is excellent, and the choice of the Library of Congress is doubtless the best that could be made. But what is more important than a central depository is the machinery for what Mr. Utley has called "the centralization of information." In more

fields than the one under consideration this is a crying need. It is strongly to be hoped that this organization, the American Library Association, the Modern Language Association, and the American Historical Association will urge upon the Library of Congress the high desirability of its undertaking this service. The Library of Congress cards have been a great help. Should not the next step be for it to assemble a record of all photographic reproductions now in or hereafter to be placed in American libraries? Thus useless duplication might be prevented. And in that case such funds as other libraries care to expend in procuring photographic reproductions, provided these libraries permit the loan of their copies (under proper safeguards), would be practically added to those provided under the Modern Language Association plan and from other sources.

One of the practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the committee's plan is the location of copies of very rare books. When Mr. Pollard's short-title list of English books printed before 1641 appears this difficulty will be largely overcome. I suggest that this society, in co-operation perhaps with the Library of Congress, compile a short-title bibliography of books in American libraries printed before 1641, whether English or not, which are not entered in Mr. Pollard's list, or not located by him in American libraries. Meanwhile would it be officious for me to urge upon all American librarians the duty incumbent upon them of reporting to Mr. Pollard their copies of such books, and (if Mr. Putnam will consent to utilize

the material) of sending duplicate lists to the Library of Congress?

The Newberry Library has received numerous replies to the questionnaire and list sent out by it in June, 1921. To show the general interest in the subject and to throw light on some of the points under discussion it may be well to summarize some of these replies:

Dr. A. H. Shearer, librarian of the Grosvenor Library, Buffalo, approves a central depository. Professor John S. P. Tatlock for the Stanford University Library approves the suggestions and urges that other libraries be given the chance to secure copies whenever the Newberry Library orders them. Andrew Keogh, librarian, Yale University Library: "We should be glad to have reproductions of these rarities at Yale without regard to whether there are copies in other libraries, unless indeed copies elsewhere are available for borrowing." The New York Public Library would subscribe to a series of reproductions if the Columbia University Library does not take a set. The Columbia University Library approves of the plan generally "from a library point of view," and incloses a letter from a Columbia professor who recognizes the need for such reproductions: "Dickson's desire for *Valentine and Orson* is a case in point. I find that Huntington has a copy of that in California, which is hardly nearer than England, however." The Princeton Library would like to have the opportunity of subscribing.

Dr. George Watson Cole, of the Huntington Library, finds the Newberry list of especial interest "as we are

attempting to make our collection of this class of works [books printed before 1641] as complete as possible." He suggests interchange of lists of books so reproduced. The Huntington had the originals of thirty-three items on the Newberry List of Desiderata and would like to have copies of all the others.

### IV. THE QUESTION OF COLLOTYPES AND SIMILAR PRINTS FROM PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES

But there is another question which intrudes on these considerations: Are straight photographic reproductions after all, the solution?

I have quoted above the opinion by Mr. Meyer, of the Library of Congress, on the defects of such reproductions. A later letter from Mr. Meyer expresses his hearty approval of a plan of collotype reproductions. "That would give us something which we know would be permanent." While Mr. A. W. Pollard, of the British Museum, approves of plans for procuring rotograph reproductions, he would "like to see a more extended program inaugurated, by which the great libraries and private collectors, if they will come in, in the United States and here should combine together to print a limited number of collotypes of all unique books of importance." Mr. Pollard last summer promised to consult Mr. Greg and the Oxford Press and see if some plan of this sort could not be started—with what results I have not learned.

The two plans obviously are not mutually exclusive. The difficulty, however, is to decide just what books

should be reproduced by the collotype process in a number of copies and what in one or a very few copies by the rotograph method.

For special investigators the rotograph method because of its comparative cheapness, if for no other reason, must still be the solution. The question is how far the libraries will go in aiding research by providing such tools.

Collotype reproductions seem to be best, if they can be afforded. The Modern Language Association Committee's plan is positively helpful and provides against economic waste. But beyond its purview there will doubtless be a number of titles too unimportant for collotype reprinting and yet important enough to justify the independent acquisition of a few copies by some of the larger libraries. If the committee, however, will presently issue its program and list of proposed photostats, the libraries in most cases can afford to wait and procure their copies, black on white, from it or from its depository—the Library of Congress.

# THE SWAMPSCOTT MEETING, 1921

The annual meeting for 1921 was held on June 22, at Swampscott, Massachusetts. The meeting was an interesting and valuable contribution to the subject of the use of reproducing processes in bibliographical work. The chair was taken by Dr. Charles L. Nichols.

The President's Address was submitted by Dr. George Watson Cole:

The Bibliographical Society of America has again met in annual session and a program has been laid out which it is hoped will interest bibliographers and librarians alike. In no branch of a library is the need of bibliography more keenly felt than in its reference department. When a means of simplifying and improving its service appears it should be greeted with a hearty welcome and support. Few reference libraries are probably ignorant of the photostat, but few, it may also be said, probably realize the extent to which it has lightened and improved their service.

It has been thought wise, therefore, to devote this session to the consideration of the photostat as an aid to bibliographical and research work and to give some instances in which it is being successfully used in those lines.

It is quite proper and suitable in a meeting of this character that we should review the path over which we have come, take a view of the present state of our affairs, and look forward to the aims and possibilities that lie before us. The Society can justly point with pride to the work it has put on record during the past half-decade. The *Census of Incunabula*, which engaged its attention for the greater part of that time, has everywhere been received with favor by the learned world. The *Fiske Memorial Number* is a fitting tribute to one of the most highly cultured and representative men produced by our American institutions. The other publications of the Society during the same period cover various fields and reflect credit upon its work.

The Secretary and Treasurer in their reports will give you an account of the present standing of the Society. In addition to the funds coming into the hands of the Treasurer through the regular channels as

membership dues and sales of publications, there is in hand, at the present time, a balance of some $500, the remains of a voluntary fund raised for the purpose of editing the *Census of Incunabula* and from the sales of that work. There are also in the Treasurer's hands the proper vouchers showing what disposition has been made of the fund in the course of that work. These await audit by a committee which you shall choose for that purpose. As a contributor to that fund I would recommend that (with the consent of the other voluntary contributors) a suitable honorarium be awarded to the editor of the *Census* and that the balance of the fund be devoted to the general publishing expenses of the Society.

The *Papers* of the Society fully justify its existence and call for its successful continuance. There are still in the hands of the acting editor a number of unpublished papers which should be put into print at an early day, but which, owing to the high cost of printing and other causes, have been held back. The time has now apparently arrived for their publication, and it would be well that they should take the form of an annual number in order to preserve the serial numbering.

The appearance of such catalogues as those of the Wrenn Library of Early English Literature, now in the University of Texas; the privately issued catalogues of William A. Clark, Jr., covering the same field as well as that of Modern English Literature; the new catalogue of the John Carter Brown Library, now in course of publication; the "Check-List of Elizabethan Literature" in the Henry E. Huntington Library; and the individual bibliographies being issued from time to time by Thomas J. Wise, of London, all point to renewed activities in the bibliographical field, and to the fact that there should be maintained in this country a medium through which current work of this character can be brought to the attention of those interested.

The use of the photostat, by raising the standard of bibliographical work, is leading to an increasingly large number of new discoveries in bibliography which should be recorded. This is an added reason why a journal should be maintained through which this information may be imparted to the public.

It is now some time since a List of the Members of the Society and its Constitution and By-laws have appeared in print. This should be done at an early day, and, in addition, an Index to the publications of the

Society, which is in the course of preparation, would make their contents more easily consulted and useful.

Your President appreciates most fully the continued honors and confidence that the Society has conferred upon him. The pressure of other duties now obliges him to lay down the duties of the position he has so long enjoyed, but the Society may rest assured that he has its welfare ever at heart and desires to be called upon whenever his services may be deemed useful.

The paper by Dr. Lodewyk Bendikson, "The Photostat—A Photographic Copying and Reproducing Apparatus," gave a careful account of the technique of the apparatus, together with some illustrations of its use.

"The Photostat in Bibliographical and Research Work—A Symposium," collected by Dr. Cole, summarized the work and results in different institutions. Among these were Harvard, Boston Public, Massachusetts Secretary of State (where the photostat is used for copying many legal papers), Connecticut State, Yale, Columbia (where considerable use has been made in copying Chinese books), Engineering Societies Library, New York State Department of Education, New York Public Library (from which Mr. Wilberforce Eames reported in detail on large enterprises and on costs), New York Historical Society, Cornell, Princeton, University of Minnesota, Library of Congress, University of Michigan, Hispanic Society.

"The Photostat as a Means of Distributing Copies of Unique or Very Rare Works," by Dr. Worthington Chauncey Ford, went into detail especially from the experience of the Massachusetts Historical Society on some of the subjects referred to in the symposium. The first division was of newspapers, with especial reference to the *Boston News Letter* and *Georgia Gazette*, 95,000 papers of the former having been sent, and 1,480 of the latter; the second, broadsides, of which over 300 reproductions have been distributed among 15 libraries; the third, the Americana series, of which 44 rare volumes have been reproduced and distributed to 10 selected libraries.

"The Photostat and the Huntington Library," by Chester March Cate, referred especially to the detection of bibliographical difference in rarities by means of reproductions of copies in widely separate parts of the world.

Comment followed. Dr. Bernard C. Steiner referred to the possibility of identifying documents owing to marginal notes or marks being reproduced from certain copies. He also spoke of the impossibility of reproducing mended copies where the text has been covered with silk. With reference to the acceptance in courts of photostat copies where photographs are not accepted, Mr. Winship and others spoke of the possibility of altering or faking photostat copies. With regard to a question of Mr. Lydenberg as to permanency of reproduced copies, Mr. Meyer said that naturally paper chemically treated would not have the life of other paper, but that so far the results had not proved unsatisfactory. A photostat copy of a card bibliography was exhibited by representatives of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Winship brought up the proposition that large libraries could not afford to subscribe to all the reproduction projects proposed, partly from expense, especially since the cost is not appreciably lowered by number of copies, and partly from the impossibility of finding room on the shelves for all such issues. Since negatives must always be made, he trusted that eventually a central clearing-house could be established where negatives could be kept, and that upon demand by scholars and investigators a library could borrow negatives or secure positives.

The question came up whether reproduced items were catalogued the same as originals. The Department of Agriculture spoke of its practice of supplying copy to the Library of Congress for cards for all such reproductions, and in such copy annotations are made as to any additions or supplements.

Mention was made of work on a new kind of paper, much quicker and cheaper, and not needing chemical treatment for development.

The papers were referred to the Committee on Publications.

The Committee on Nominations, Dr. A. T. Root, chairman, reported as follows: for president, W. W. Bishop; first vice-president, H. H. B. Meyer; second vice-president, Victor H. Paltsits; secretary, A. H. Shearer; treasurer, F. W. Faxon; councilor for term commencing 1921, E. C. Richardson. Upon motion, ballot was cast for these officers.

The treasurer reported a balance in all accounts, with provision for publication of the 1920 and 1921 *Papers and Proceedings*. He reported that bills had not been sent out for 1921 owing to the fact that no publication had been issued in 1920 and since there were so many institutional members, their membership was largely conditioned on that fact. Bills would be sent out with the next publication. This explanation will satisfy the questions of many members. His report is printed below.

Mr. G. P. Winship for the Publication Committee reported that the publications had been held up successively by questions about one or two papers, then by the cost of printing, then by strikes, but that the material was ready and would be published probably in two or three months.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

A. H. Shearer, *Secretary*

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### Discussion of Photographic Reproduction

The subject of Photographic Reproduction was resumed at the meeting held at Chicago in December, 1921. A paper by Mr. F. I. Carpenter, a Trustee of the Newberry Library, which was read at this meeting, is printed herewith, as it supplements those read at Swampscott in July; the discussion of this paper is printed below. The remainder of the report of the Chicago meeting, and the other papers read there, will appear in the next issue of these *Papers*.

Discussion was animated and valuable. Dr. Bishop said that the photostat was an admirable copying machine but a poor pub-

lishing instrument. In the reproducing of the *Kentucky Gazette* and *Detroit Gazette* at Michigan, it was estimated that the making of seventeen copies reduced the cost only 15 per cent over the making of one copy. Dr. Andrews described the Manul process, which is not profitable unless about one hundred copies are secured. The negative is put on zinc. He referred to the cameragraph as having the advantage of printing on both sides of the sheet and reducing the cost but having the disadvantage of not being clearly defined. Mr. Hanson mentioned a reproduction made for the University of Chicago in which the securing of six copies cut the cost nearly in half. Dr. Richardson spoke of the need of copies of manuscripts for ready lending purposes. Dr. Bishop recalled the meeting to the question of a central depositary. Mr. Gerould said: "We do not want to burden the Library of Congress unduly, especially under present conditions. If cards could be printed for depositary catalogues, enough larger libraries might subscribe for a series of such cards. A copy should be prepared by the library owning the reproduction so that the Library of Congress need only print the card." Mr. Gerould added his protest against the reproduction of a large number of copies of a rare book. One or two ought to be enough.

Mr. H. H. B. Meyer said he thought the plan to create a collection of negatives in a central depositary was best and the Library of Congress would be the best place, but at present the Library of Congress was unable to do its own work properly, owing to lack of resources. He thought Mr. Gerould's suggestion for cards could very likely be carried out if copy was sent by the possessing libraries. He would offer as a practical suggestion that the negatives remain with the owner, that copy be sent to the Library of Congress, and that the cards be printed by it. Mr. Carpenter thought that Mr. Meyer's suggestion was excellent. He knew of a number of reproductions in private hands; he had one and Mr. Manly had several. Mr. Hanson said he knew from consultation with Mr. Hastings that the Library of Congress could print the cards if

50 subscriptions were secured. Mr. Meyer amended by saying the Library of Congress could print immediately if 35 subscriptions were secured. These cards would then be put in the union catalogue. Dr. Bishop suggested an immediate call for subscriptions, and 15 were guaranteed. The Society therefore voted to underwrite the 35 subscriptions.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

This report covers January to December inclusive, 1920. There were, on January 1, 1921, 187 members paid up, and 10 unpaid. Of life-members we have 8, having added Dr. Arnold B. Tompkins since last year, and we have also received a second life-membership from Dr. George Watson Cole.

As no publications have yet been issued for the year 1920 the balance on hand indicates the amount that may be spent for that purpose.

Since January, 1921, although no membership bills have been sent out by the Treasurer owing to the fact that the 1920 publications have been delayed, we have received dues for 1921 from 13 members, and one new member has been received.

RECEIPTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Balance on hand, January 1, 1920 | | | $554.71 |
| Membership dues, 1917 (1) | $ 3.00 | | |
| Membership dues, 1918 (2) | 6.00 | | |
| Membership dues, 1919 (3) | 9.00 | | |
| Membership dues, 1920 (185) | 555.50 | | |
| Membership dues, 1921 (2) | 6.00 | | |
| Membership to complete dues on 1 | 1.73 | | |
| | | 581.23 | |
| Interest on deposit | | $ 13.25 | |
| University of Chicago Press: | | | |
| Sales, July–December, 1919 | $ 8.50 | | |
| Sales, January–June, 1920 | 48.79 | | |
| | | 57.29 | |
| Sale by Treasurer (Set of Publications) | | $ 35.20 | |
| | | | $1,241.68 |

EXPENDITURES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mailing due bills | | $ 5.00 | |
| Account book for Treasurer | | 1.50 | |
| J. A. Crosby, printer: | | | |
| Stationery | $ 7.50 | | |
| Envelopes | 5.25 | | |
| Due bills | 3.75 | | |
| | | 16.50 | |
| Evans-Penfield Co.: | | | |
| Invitations and envelopes: | | | |
| 1920 Midwinter meeting | $ 13.50 | | |
| 1921 Atlantic City meeting | 12.00 | | |
| | | 25.50 | |
| Exchange on checks | | .54 | |
| University of Chicago Press (February 3): | | | |
| 400 copies Vol. XIII, Part II Papers | | 368.98 | |
| Addressing and mailing same | | 22.50 | |
| Postage on copies sent out | | 3.60 | |
| Stamps for Treasurer | | 3.00 | |
| | | | $ 447.12 |
| Balance on hand January 1, 1921 (State Street Trust Co.) | | | $ 794.56 |

LIFE-MEMBERSHIP FUND

Principal

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Balance on hand January 1, 1920 | | $368.52 | |
| Dr. Nichols | $50.00 | | |
| G. W. Cole (second life-membership) | 50.00 | | |
| A. B. Tompkins | 50.00 | | |
| | | 150.00 | |
| Transferred from interest account to make up original amount | | 81.48 | |
| Balance on hand (Brookline, Mass., Savings Bank at 4½ per cent) | | | $ 600.00 |

Interest Account

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Balance on hand January 1, 1920 . . . | $67.74 | |
| Interest to January 12, 1920 . . . . | 17.60 | |
| | | 85.34 |
| Transferred to principal . . . . . | | 81.48 |
| Balance on hand (Brookline, Mass., Savings Bank at 4½ per cent) . . . . . | | $ 3.86 |

Incunabula Fund

| | |
|---|---|
| Received from G. W. Cole (Brookline, Mass., Trust Co. Savings Department at 4½ per cent) | $ 512.13 |

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick W. Faxon, *Treasurer*

# NOTES OF BOOKS AND WORKERS

VICISSITUDES.—A typical chapter in the history of war-time printing is set forth by Victor H. Paltsits in a study reprinted from the *Bulletin* of the New York Public Library for September, 1920, with the title *John Holt, Printer and Postmaster*. Between 1755 and 1784 Holt engaged in the printing business at New Haven, New York, Norfolk in Virginia, Kingston on the Hudson, and Poughkeepsie. The documents printed by Mr. Paltsits supplement the data in Clarence S. Brigham's *Check List of American Newspapers*, elucidating some of the confusion introduced by the changes in name and imprint on the newspaper conducted by Holt. He had purchased the good-will and title of James Parker's *New York Gazette* in 1762, but in May, 1766, apparently voluntarily, surrendered the title when Parker reopened a New York establishment. Holt continued to issue his paper with the name of *The New York Journal*, for a few issues, until he learned that Parker did not intend to start a rival, whereupon the *Gazette* name and numbering was resumed. In October, however, the *Gazette* appeared with Parker as publisher, the numbering continuing in unbroken sequence; Holt's paper again assuming the name of *The Journal*, but likewise continuing, quite justifiably, the numbering, No. 1241, from his last issue of *The Gazette*.

When the British occupied New York in September, 1776, Holt and *The Journal* removed to Kingston. There Nos. 1757 to 1771 appeared from July to October, 1777. Driven from Kingston in the autumn, Holt resumed printing at Poughkeepsie in the spring, issuing *The Journal* from May, 1778, to November, 1780, and from July, 1781, to January, 1782. After the departure of the British, Holt returned to New York, and in November, 1783, resumed his newspaper publication with a new numbering and title, *The Independent New York Gazette*.

An Active Experiment.—A very different impression of the conditions affecting the printers of the Revolutionary years is given by the story of the Dresden press, as set forth by Harold G. Rugg, of the Dartmouth College Library, reprinted from the *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine* for May, 1920. Upon the foundation of a list of 34 titles, 14 of which are "no copy known," dated in 1778–79, Mr. Rugg has constructed a very solid historical edifice. The town of Dresden in the state of Vermont was the same place now known as Hanover in New Hampshire. This accounts both for some of the confusion and for the interest which makes possible the substantial results of Mr. Rugg's researches. The archives of the state and of the college contain documentary material illuminating nearly every step of the negotiations before and after the press was established.

As often happens, an incomplete file of bills paid by the state leaves room for interesting conjectures. In this case the single surviving bill rendered by the printers accounts for ten otherwise unknown imprints that cannot now be found, issued between October, 1778, and June, 1779. The press functioned for another six months, and there is no reason to doubt that the bill for this later period would add a corresponding number to the total record of output. If 40 per cent of the work of the press is known to have disappeared, there must have been a proportionate amount which has gone without leaving any trace.

A Labor of Piety.—Devotion to the past of the institution in which his own services have made him an integral part of its fabric, has been combined with the fascination as engrossing as that of reconstructing a shattered piece of precious old china, in the task which Alfred C. Potter completed by the publication of a "Catalogue of John Harvard's Library" in the *Transactions of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts* for March, 1919. More than twenty years ago Mr. Potter took over this task from Andrew McFarland Davis, who had made several shrewd guesses when

he printed the list as given in the original college record book in the Harvard Library *Bibliographical Contributions* for 1888. Ever since, while reading booksellers' catalogues and looking over the shelves of private or public libraries, Mr. Potter has had in mind those tantalizing entries, taken down in all probability by dictation from binders' titles or from a casual glance at a confusing title-page. John Harvard's gift, on which the present Harvard was established, included some 400 volumes, representing at least 329 titles. Of these Mr. Potter has identified all but about 40 entries; such memoranda as "N. Test. Lat." or "Christianity," while guaranteeing the propriety of the gift, leaving no clue upon which even a guess may be hazarded.

All but one or two of the original Harvard books were burned in 1764. The friends of the college did their best to make good the loss, several clergymen contributing largely from their libraries. But the character of New England theology had already begun to change, under the conflicting influences of Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards, and these eighteenth-century parsons had relatively few of the volumes which—from the point of view of later days—gave distinction to the collection when its catalogue was printed in 1723. For a single instance: in 1723 Harvard possessed some twenty volumes that came from the press before the year 1500; between 1764 and 1800 it secured only one.

Not the least interesting part of Mr. Potter's endeavor has been the effort to replace the original Harvard gift. He has succeeded in buying nearly 60 per cent of the titles identified. Of these, 111 are believed to be copies of the same edition that John Harvard owned, the remaining 85 being other, but in all cases early, editions.

Cautious Restraint.—In bibliography as in other lines, Hispanic America is coming into its own. Taken as a whole, the numerous publications of the past five years furnish convincing evidence of the soundness of the training of the scholars who are

going into this field. The most useful of these recent publications is Hayward Keniston's *List of Works for the Study of Hispanic-American History*, which is No. V of the "Notes and Monographs" issued by the Hispanic Society of America. This very carefully selected list of titles, intelligently grouped, is primarily only a convenient handbook which will save other investigators the bother of making memoranda of the titles of books which they consult. Dr. Keniston does not venture to offer any other help. The user is left to find out for himself, for instance, that no one nowadays looking up the Antilles, would think of using Justin Winsor's *Narrative and Critical History*, which is cited without date, if he could lay hand on the work of Frank Cundall or Jacques de Dampierre.

Mr. C. K. Jones of Washington is more helpful in the comprehensive "List of Hispanic American Bibliographies" of which the first instalment appeared in the *Hispanic American Review* for August, 1920, with the titles of 190 "General and Miscellaneous" works. He cites the authority for titles he has not examined, and notes that certain works are "valuable," or "indispensable," besides quoting at times the comments of Harrisse or of Toribio Medina. Mr. Jones's "Bibliography of the [*sic*, for latest] Mexican Revolution" in the same *Review* for May, 1919, is frankly adapted from Sr. Ignacio B. del Castillo's *Bibliografia de la revolución mexicana de* 1910–1916.

No one, however, will proceed far in the use of these or similar works on South America without realizing that he must depend primarily upon M. Foulche-Delbosc's notes in the *Revue Hispanique.*

A Fiftieth Birthday Gift.—The friends of the Swedish collector Friherre Per Hierta presented him on his fiftieth birthday, in 1914, a volume of collected essays entitled "Ex Bibliotheca Fraemmestadiensi Festskrift Tillägnad Friherre Per Hierta pa Hans Femtioärsdag." The articles, which had previously appeared in

various periodicals, were written by Collijn, Rudbeck, and Sjögren, as well as a number by Hierta himself. Several of them deal with old bindings, and these are illustrated by sixty excellent reproductions of examples of Italian Renaissance, Grolier, Plantin, and Swedish work. Others treat of book prices, book plates, and Hierta's important collection of Incunabula. The volume, of which only 125 copies were printed, is an example of the high quality of Swedish typography and presswork of the present day.

G. G.

Medical Incunabula.—A three-page folder compiled by K. Vogel, secretary to the Committee on Library of the New York Academy of Medicine, dated February 19, 1920, lists twenty-four fifteenth-century books now in that collection. Of these, seven are not listed in the *Census*, and four seem to be new titles, although the absence of any references or other satisfactory means of identification makes it difficult to be sure of this, for one who is not specializing in medical works. As Dr. Arnold C. Klebs has returned to his home in Switzerland, the Society can no longer call upon him for the invaluable co-operation which added so greatly to the usefulness of this side of the *Census*.

The New York Academy list, like almost every other, including most of the entries in the *Census*, omits the one bit of information for which those who are working with fifteenth-century books would be more grateful than for anything else. This is something, anything, that would identify the individual copy. It is very desirable that the *Census* be supplemented from time to time by local lists, but there will be a great deal of wastefulness in printing these unless they include data not given already. Of such data, the most useful will be the mention of bookplates and manuscript notes which show the provenance of the copy listed.

G. P. W.